

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/525,334

Examiner

David D. Le

Applicant(s)

WHEALS, JONATHAN CHARLES

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 27 August 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 8-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the second Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/525,334, filed 08 September 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 8-15 are pending.

Documents

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
 - Declaration and Power of Attorney, received on 09/08/05
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 05/11/05
 - Copy of Foreign Priority Document, received on 02/22/05
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 02/22/05

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney, Lloyd McAulay, on 10 September 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification:

The abstract has been rewritten as follows:

--A vehicle transmission system includes an input shaft connected to a differential mechanism, which has two output shafts. The two output shafts carry first and second coaxially mounted sun wheels, respectively, of an epicyclic gear system which mesh with first and second sets of planet wheels, respectively, which mesh with first and second annulus wheels, respectively. Each planet wheel is mounted to rotate independently about a respective planet shaft and the planet shafts are connected to a common carrier, which is rotatably mounted coaxially with the first and second sun wheels. The first and second annulus wheels are connected together. The carrier is connected to selectively operable speed changing device arranged to increase or decrease the speed of rotation of the carrier about its axis.--

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 2 and 8-15 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a transmission system for a vehicle comprising an input shaft, a differential mechanism, two output shafts, an epicyclic gear system, first and second coaxially mounted sun wheels, first and second

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sets of planet wheels, first and second annulus wheels, planet shafts, a common carrier, a selectively operable speed changing means, and at least one sensor, as recited in claim 1; specifically, wherein the two output shafts carry the first and second coaxially mounted sun wheels, respectively, of the epicyclic gear system which mesh with the first and second sets of planet wheels, respectively, which mesh with the first and second annulus wheels, respectively; the planet shafts are connected to the common carrier; and the selectively operable speed changing means is arranged to increase or decrease the speed rotation of the carrier.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7092. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0700-1530).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David D. Le', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David D. Le
Primary Examiner
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09/09/2007

ddl